

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

OBSERVATIONS UPON THE BIRD LIFE OF DEATH VALLEY. By JOSEPH GRINNELL. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., XIII, pp. 43-109. 1923.

This paper is a report of another investigation by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy, under the patronage of Miss Annie M. Alexander. Death Valley lies in a north and south direction between high mountain ranges. Its deepest part is below sea-level, and presents extreme desert conditions. This sparse vegetation reacts directly on the animal life, and the bird life is relatively meager because of lack of food and shelter. Dr. Grinnell's present study, together with that of Dr. A. K. Fisher (1893), furnishes a pretty complete survey of the avifauna of this very unique region.

Only 124 species are admitted to the present list, notwithstanding the fact that it is regarded as a migration highway. Of these 25 are considered as casual visitants; forty-five as regular transients; thirty-two as winter visitants. Of the ten summer visitants only one is known to breed below the sea-level. There are twelve permanent residents, all of which are believed to nest in the below-sea-level area. The ecological discussion of the region and the authentic catalogue of species are the outstanding features of this paper.

T. C. STEPHENS.

HERONS OF THE UNITED STATES. Bulletin No. 5, of the National Association of the Audubon Societies. 1924.

This is a 38-page pamphlet, which has for its purpose the resume of the present status of all of the herons that are native to North America in comparison to their status before the Audubon Society began its intensive campaign to save these interesting birds from threatened complete extinction because of the trade in feathers for millinery purposes. Each of the species is represented in color by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, besides several half-tone cuts of several of the species. It will prove to be a useful piece of literature.

L. J.